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Report from Panama—Confirmation of plague death at La Boca—Panama quarantined—Rat destruction to be attempted.

Consul-General Lee reports, June 26, as follows:

I have the honor to confirm the following telegram, sent to the Department on June 25: "Bubonic, stevedore, La Boca, fatal."

A negro stevedore employed at the La Boca wharf, 3 miles from Panama city, at the Pacific entrance to the canal, was taken to Ancon hospital on Wednesday last. On Friday he died. The autopsy showed that his death was due to bubonic plague.

Undoubtedly he received infection through handling cargo or through the agency of rats on board a steamer from Peru or ports on the west coast of South America.

Panama is quarantined against La Boca, and all possible precautions are taken by the sanitary authorities. An effort will be made to destroy all the rats in Panama.

Report from Bocas del Toro, fruit port.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Osterhout reports as follows: Week ended June 30, 1905. Present officially estimated population not obtainable; 3 deaths reported; prevailing disease, malarial fever; general sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.

Bills of health were issued to the following-named vessels:

Date.	Vessel.	Destination.	Number of crew.	Number of passengers from this port.	Number of passengers in transit.	Pieces of baggage.
June 24	Ellis.....	New Orleans	33	1	2	2
27	Herald.....	Colon.....		9	0	(a)
28	Bound Brook.....	Mobile.....	34	0	0	0
30	Fort Gaines	do	20	1	0	3

a Not inspected.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Report from Manila—Plague in Manila and Cebu—Treatment at Mariveles Quarantine Station of army transport Sherman on account of case of smallpox on board—Inspection of vessels—Circular in regard to vaccination of crews.

Chief Quarantine Officer Heiser reports June 2, 9, and 15, as follows: During the week ended May 27, 1905, there were no quarantinable diseases reported in the city of Manila.

During the week vessels cleared from Manila for ports in the United States or its dependencies as follows:

On May 24, 1905, the British steamer *Atholl*, with 46 crew, en route from Yokohama to New York, was granted a supplemental bill of health. Forecastles and storerooms fumigated with sulphur; crew inspected on board at hour of sailing; 5,665 pieces of cargo certified.

On May 26, 1905, the British steamer *Poona*, en route from Yokohama to Cebu, with 119 crew and 3 passengers, was granted a supplemental bill of health.

July 21, 1905

During the week ended June 3, 1905, quarantinable disease as follows was reported for the city of Manila:

Plague.—One case, 1 death.

CEBU.

In Cebu, during the same period, there occurred plague as follows: 2 cases, 2 deaths.

Smallpox.—On June 1, 1905, the United States Army Transport *Sherman* arrived from San Francisco with a case of smallpox on board in the person of one of the cabin stewards. The following letter was handed to our medical officer upon boarding the vessel:

U. S. A. T. SHERMAN,
Honolulu, Hawaii, May 12, 1905.

Doctor HEISER,

Chief Quarantine Officer Philippine Islands, Manila.

SIR: I have the honor to state that the U. S. A. T. *Sherman* left Honolulu for Guam and Manila this morning, and returned this afternoon with a case of smallpox on board, which was discovered after leaving Honolulu.

We have recommended that she put into the harbor, have the contacts removed and quarters of infected person disinfected. As he was a steward in first cabin, this would mean practically the whole ship.

This they have not thought desirable, so that we have simply removed the sick—1 certain case and 1 suspect—and we have declined to assume any responsibility in the matter.

Yours, respectfully,

L. E. COFER,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, United States Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.

A. N. SINCLAIR,

Acting Assistant Surgeon.

The case of smallpox was put off at the Mariveles Quarantine Station and the vessel was permitted to proceed to Manila to discharge the mail. The latter had been in a sealed hatch and was deemed unlikely to have become infected. Upon the accomplishment of the foregoing the vessel was remanded to the Mariveles Quarantine Station for disinfection. The total personnel on board—1,557 persons—were bathed and their effects disinfected. In view of the fact that the cabin passengers were most exposed to the disease, and therefore most likely to convey the infection, the most rigid disinfection was deemed necessary. The work outlined above was probably one of the largest tasks which any quarantine station has ever been called upon to perform. The fact that it was accomplished in less than two working days is ample evidence that the station is fully prepared to handle the amount of work for which it was built. It was also reported that several cases of measles had occurred during the voyage. The disinfection for smallpox also effectually guarded against the probability of measles being introduced into the islands. The latter is a rare disease in the Philippines. It is therefore desirable that no new infection of this character be permitted to enter.

The following vessels cleared for ports in the United States or its dependencies:

On May 31, 1905, the American ship *S. P. Hitchcock*, hemp laden, with 23 crew, cleared for the United States via Cebu and St. Helena. Holds of vessel were fumigated while in port.

On May 31, 1905, the British steamer *Sung Kiang*, with 67 crew and 14 passengers, en route from Hongkong to Iloilo, was granted a